Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KABUL 06678 200850Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 /064 W
----------062049 201357Z /50
R 200545Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9613

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KABUL 6678

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP, AF
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS -- POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF: A. STATE 107370; B. STATE 200405

1. THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) IS NOW ESS THAN FOUR MONTHS OLD AND ITS POLICIES TOWARD POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD PRODUCTION ARE NOT FULLY ENUNCIATED.

2. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS OF THE DRA THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT POPULATION GROWTH AS A DETERRENT TO ECONOMIC PROGRESS. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE DRA HAS NOT FOCUSED ON THIS MATTER AND THAT POPULATION POLICY WILL NOT BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC PLANNING. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, RELATIVE TO MANY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AFGHANISTAN HAS ONLY MODERATE PRESSURE ON ITS LAND AND A POPULATION GROWTH RATE, ESTIMATED AT 2. 4 PERCENT A YEAR. THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF HEALTH SERVICES COULD RESULT IN A SHARPLY INCREASED POPULATION GROWTH RATE.

3. THE DRA POLICY TOWARD INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS LIKEWISE UNCLEAR. DRA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN FORTHRIGHT IN EXPRESSING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KABUL 06678 200850Z

THEIR DETERMINATION TO PURSUE POLICIES DIRECTED AT IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION. A FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS NOW UNDER PREPARATION AND SHOULD INDICATE THE COURSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION TOWARD INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. SOME PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT INDUSTRY WILL BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY IN DEVELOPMENT, ALTHOUGH AGRICULTURE WILL BE GIVEN A STRONG EMPHASIS.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

4. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS WHICH, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY HAVE A COMMENDABLE SOCIAL PURPOSE, COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. LAND REFORM IS ONE OF THE DRA'S HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAS TOLD ME THAT LAND REFORM AND ASSISTING THE LANDLESS WILL BE THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF THE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM. HOW A PROGRAM OF LAND REFORM WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IS FAR FROM CLEAR, BUT IT WILL INVOLVE AT A MINIMUM SOME REDISTRIBUTION OF LAND AND THE FORMATION OF FARMERS' COOPERATIVES. THE FIRST DIRECT ACTION THE DRA HAS TAKEN TOWARD LAND REFORM WAS THE ISSUANCE OF DECREE NO. 6 ON JULY 17. THE DECREE DEALS WITH THE PROBLEM OF FARMERS' DEBTS AND MORTGAGES TO "LANDLORDS AND USERERS," CANCELING THE OLDER DEBTS AND REDUCTING MORE RECENT OBLIGATIONS OF THE FARMERS. BY ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY THE TRADITIONAL CREDIT SYSTEM IN THE CONTRYSIDE, DECREE NO. 6 COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODCTION -- AS COULD OTHER LAND REFORM POLICIES WHICH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FUTURE -- IF NOT OFFSET BY OTHER CREDIT AND DEVELOPMENT MEASURES.

5. OUR AID PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN IS WELL DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD PRODUCTION. WE HAVE A LONG-STANDING PROJECT WITH THE AFGHAN FAMILY GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION (AFGA), AND THE DRA, TO DATE, HAS NOT DISTRUBED THIS PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CONCERNS THAT AFGA MAY BE ABSORBED INTO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND LOSE ITS CAPABILITY FOR RELATVELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

INDEPENDENT ACTION.

6. WE HAVE SEVERAL AID PROJECTS, PROPOSED AND UNDERWAY, DIRECTLY RELATED TO INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. WE ARE ASSISTING THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, A CREDIT RESOURCE FOR FARMERS, AND THE AFGHAN FERTILIZER COMPANY, THE PRINCIPAL DISTRIBUTOR OF FERTILIZER IN THE COUNTRY. TWO PLANNED PROGRAMS ARE A PROJECT TO IMPROVE DRY LAND WHEAT PRODUCTION AND, IN COOPERATION WITH THE IBRD, A WHEAT STABILIZATION PROJECT WHICH IS AIMED AT STABILIZING WHEAT PRICES AND SUPPLIES AND PROVIDING FOR INCREASED STORAGE CAPACITY OF WHEAT FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES.

7. AFGHANISTAN IS NOT NOW, NOR IS IT LIKELY TO BECOME IN THE NEAR FUTURE, A CHRONIC FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRY. EXCEPT IN YEARS OF DROUGHT, THE COUNTRY IS BASICALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN GRAINS. SOME 80 PERCENT OF EXPORTS ARE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THERE IS PTENTIAL HERE FOR SIZEABLE INCREASES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, THE SPECTRE OF CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH, POSSIBLY AT INCREASED RATES; GOVERNMENT POLICIES WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND THE TRADITIONAL DIFFICULTY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD IN IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, LEAD US TO BE ONLY CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT AFGHANISTAN CAN MAKE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE FORESEEABLE
FUTURE.
AMSTUTZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRODUCTION, AMBASSADORS, FOODS, POPULATION GROWTH RATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL06678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780340-1127
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780844/aaaabkkx.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 98e85160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 107370, 78 STATE 200405
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1682994
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR\'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS -- POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION
TAGS: SPOP, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/98e85160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014